

dental amalgam, which has been used for more than 150 years. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) there is "more significant human experience with dental amalgam than any other restorative material." Any adverse outcomes of mercury in amalgam would have first manifested in Dentists and their staff due to their daily exposure. The American Dental Association Health Foundation (ADAHF) have done research regarding the mean urinary mercury levels of dentists from 1975 to 2001 and have found that dentist urinary mercury levels are well below established limits for occupational exposure. Furthermore the American Dental Association (ADA) investigators have done studies and research to find any possible correlation between Kidney dysfunction and urinary mercury levels and found none.

In addition, the FDA through various U.S. Public Health Services (PHS) agencies reviewed claims of mercury exposure measurements and fetal mercury exposure and concluded that dental amalgam do not share the same toxicity characteristics of mercury and there is no evidence that individuals with dental amalgam restorations will experience adverse health effects from these restorations. Various disease organizations like The Alzheimer's Association, the Autism Society of America, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the American Academy of Pediatrics have stated that there is no scientific evidence linking dental amalgam with any known disease or syndrome that the groups track. Other organizations like the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, U.S. Federal Agencies and International Organizations and expert groups from Sweden, New Zealand, Canada and the European Commission have concluded that there

is no direct evidence that dental amalgam has an adverse effect on patient's health except with isolated cases of allergic reactions. Also it is safe and cost effective.

By banning dental amalgam and using alternative type of fillings will only place additional financial burden on low-income individuals and the special needs population. Most insurance programs, whether private or Medicaid, pay for the lowest dental cost restorative material and would not pay for alternative dental options. This will only result in an even higher dental disease rate and dental need among low-income and special needs populations.

In conclusion, dental amalgam is deemed as a serviceable, safe, cost effective restorative material, which is backed by scientific evidence and research approved by the ADA and FDA.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF DR.
JEANNE LAVETA NOBLE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, when Dr. Jeanne Laveta Noble passed away on October 17, 2002, in New York City, the state of Georgia—and especially the city of Albany and the southwest Georgia region where she was born and raised—lost one of our great native citizens.

While Dr. Noble always remained close to her home town, returning often to visit with friends and family, she made contributions that were national and even international in scope as a noted educator, a fighter for human rights

and against poverty, a scholar and writer who published three books and countless articles, an Emmy Award-winning media commentator, and a Presidential appointee in three Administrations.

Dr. Noble was the eldest child of Floyd G. and Aurelia P. Noble of Albany, Georgia. She earned her undergraduate, Masters and doctoral degrees from Howard University and Columbia University, and completed further studies at the University of Birmingham in England. She first taught Albany State University, and later served as dean of students at Langston University in Oklahoma, as the first black woman to serve as a tenured professor at New York University, and as professor emeritus of the graduate school at the City University of New York.

She was named by President Johnson to head the Women's Job Corps of the President's Task Force on the War Against Poverty, and served on commissions named by President Nixon and President Ford. In addition to her prolific writing, she moderated and co-wrote an acclaimed show called "The Learning Experience."

Dr. Noble was involved in many civic and charitable activities, including serving as the 12th national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the 200,000-member public service sorority that supports education, provides scholarships, boosts programs for young people, and promotes economic opportunities for all.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Noble's devotion to education and her service to humanity inspired everyone who knew her or knew about her. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and many friends.